



Focus

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Summer, 2003

City Projects Listed in Vision 2025

Sept. 9 Vote Would Benefit BA Parks, Roads, NSU

Broken Arrow voters will have the opportunity to impact not only their own community, but the entire Metropolitan Tulsa area on Sept. 9 when Tulsa County takes its Vision 2025 to the polls.

There are four propositions in the package, which was put together after months of town hall meetings and opportunities for input from citizens in the entire county. Broken Arrow was represented at these meetings, providing priorities for our community.

The Broken Arrow City Council unanimously approved a declaration of support for Vision 2025 at its Aug. 18 meeting.

If all four propositions pass, it would mean a 1 penny increase in sales taxes throughout Tulsa County for a period estimated at 13 years. The first two propositions deal with economic development incentives (\$350 million) for Boeing Aircraft, which is looking for a location for a plant to produce its new 7E7 commercial aircraft; and for capital improvements providing incentives (\$22.3 million) for American Airlines to retain existing jobs and attract new ones at the company's Tulsa Maintenance Base. The firm has been a leading employer in the area for more than 50 years.

American Airlines and the aircraft industry has been a major source of jobs for Broken Arrowans for decades, and the city's industry has strong ties to that same industry.

The other two propositions have Broken Arrow projects. The third (\$350.3 million) has funding for education, including Northeastern State University's campus in Broken Arrow. The fourth (\$157.4 million) provides \$6 million for the second and third phases of the Youth/Community Center and other facilities in Nienhuis Park. It also includes \$13.5 million for widening of 61st Street from U.S. 169 to Aspen Ave. (145th E. Ave.). Another part of that package is \$12.2 million to make improve-



YOUTH/COMMUNITY CENTER UNDER CONSTRUCTION -- Broken Arrow's new Youth/Community Center is under construction in Nienhuis Park. The first phase of the center (middle building) is funded through the 2000 bond issue. Funding for the other two phases, which include a gymnasium, would be available if passed by voters Sept. 9 on the Vision 2025 package.

Centennial Celebration Ending

Broken Arrow's year-long Centennial Celebration will be coming to a close this fall, with major events scheduled for a Broken Arrow High School football game and an Oct. 4 "All-American Street Dance."

John Ayers, Centennial Committee Chairman, reports that the Jenks at Broken Arrow football game on Sept. 26 will feature a closing program fitting Broken Arrow's Centennial. The celebration began last Oct. 16 with a dedication of the Centennial Statue in Centennial Park, a parade down Main and a day-long program at Central Park. A steady rain dampened the celebration.

On Oct. 4 of this year there will be a Street Dance in downtown, followed by the burial of the official Centennial Time Capsule in Centennial Park. That event, which will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., is presented by the BA Centennial Multi-Cultural Committee and is sponsored by Blue Bell Ice Cream, Valor Telecom, Aspen Medical, St. Francis of BA, Rhema and the City of Broken Arrow.

(See VISION, Page 4)

(See CENTENNIAL, Page 3)

Wuestewald Achieves Goal As City's New Police Chief

When Todd Wuestewald joined the Broken Arrow Police Department in 1982, he had some very specific goals. This summer the Detroit native accomplished his No. 1 goal -- being named the new Chief of Police for the City.

He replaces Carolyn Kusler, who was chief here for over five years. She retired this spring, and a national search was conducted for her replacement. That search found the right person right here in Broken Arrow.

He came to Broken Arrow after growing up in the Detroit suburb of Southfield, graduating from Southfield Lathrup High and then getting bachelor degrees in English and Criminal Justice from Michigan State.

He is currently pursuing a doctorate from the Tulsa campus of the University of Oklahoma.

Wuestewald is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy (2001), the Senior Management Institute for Police (2000) and the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2001).

After serving as a patrol officer from 1982 through 1984, Wuestewald began a stint of 13 years with the K-9 Unit as a dog handler, trainer and unit supervisor. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1988 and eventually served as squad supervisor on every shift, as well as special assignments as K-9 Unit supervisor and assistant team leader for the Special Operations Team.

From 1996 to 1997 Wuestewald was a Detective Sergeant, heading the "Peoples Crime" unit, responsible for all major cases and violent crime investigation. The following year he was named First Shift Watch Commander and was promoted to Captain, serving as Team Leader for the SOT.

The climb continued in 1998 when he was named Uniform Division Commander and then in 2000 when Todd was promoted to Headquarters Division Commander.

"If I could go back and do any of it again it would be my time with the K-9 unit," said Wuestewald. His German shepherd, Rocky, had to retire from the unit due to health problems. Wuestewald also "retired" from field work in K-9 rather than give up Rocky and start working with another dog. Rocky later died and was buried in a special site at the Animal Shelter.

Wuestewald and his wife Deana (a BAHS grad) have three children: daughters Jesi (13) and Mary (12) and son Cody (11).

He has made it a priority since taking office to meet with his officers and get input from them about major needs of the department and suggestions on fighting crime in the community. He met early on with area media, introducing them to many of his other officers and to the BAPD programs and philosophies.

Rick Ross was named Deputy Police Chief.



NEW CHIEF MEETS THE MEDIA -- New Broken Arrow Police Chief Todd Wuestewald (right) visits with a local television reporter after a "meet the media" session at the Police Department.

Hazard Mitigation Program Needs Ideas from Citizens

City leaders in Broken Arrow join the rest of our citizens in hoping that no major catastrophies will strike this community in the future.

But hoping isn't enough in today's world.

To meet federal guidelines and be eligible for federal funds if that disaster should strike, the City of Broken Arrow has embarked upon a Hazard Mitigation study. A committee is meeting to help shape the City's response to a variety of potential disasters. And they are looking for help from the rest of Broken Arrow.

City Engineer Justin Cook met with that committee recently and explained to them the importance of having plans of action for any of a variety of potential hazardous situations -- from hazardous waste spills to explosions, tornadoes and even terrorist attacks.

A questionnaire has been distributed to all Broken Arrow residents (it's included in this Focus newsletter), giving them an opportunity to voice their concerns and suggestions.

Municipal governments throughout the United States have until late next fall to prepare those plans and have them approved.

Broken Arrow has taken a lead in doing just that. An Emergency Management Team has been working for several months in putting together a manual detailing situations and how the City should respond. Police, fire and other EMT representatives attended a three-day session staged by the state's Homeland Security agencies last spring with several staged disasters.

Citizens are urged to fill out those questionnaires and return them (postage paid) to the City.

Sept. 27 Town Hall Meet Gives You Voice in Bonds

In April of 2004 Broken Arrow voters will be asked to vote on a bond package which will enable the City to go forward with improvements to streets and intersections, parks and recreation, public safety items for police and fire departments and more.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, citizens will be given the opportunity to begin planning the contents of those bond proposals. As it has in the past, the City will hold a Town Hall meeting designed to bring together citizens from all areas of Broken Arrow with City Staff members and Council members. The meeting, scheduled to run from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at The Great Hall in the BA Seniors, Inc., center, is built around a format of "brainstorming," with all ideas on how to create a better community listed.

Following that "kickoff," committees will be formed, with each City Council member naming some of those to the committees. Working with cost and time estimates from City Staff members, the committees will prepare a list of projects and priorities for the April election. It appears that about \$30 million would be available on the proposals without raising city property taxes. The proposals would be presented in a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

In 2000 the committees presented two different proposals to the Council, one for \$23 million and another for \$28 million, which included funding for a youth/community center and youth football complex. The Council backed the higher package, with all but one feature getting a passing vote from citizens.

Police, Fire Departments Boosted By Government Grant Funding

In a year of belt-tightening and shrinking budgets, Broken Arrow's Police and Fire departments are finding that hard work pays off in the search for government grants.

The Fire Department recently received word that it has been approved for a grant package worth about \$288,000 from the State Department of Homeland Security. It will fund an Intermediate HazMat Response Trailer and a corresponding primary moving vehicle for the unit.

The Police Department has been awarded a federal grant to provide funding to the Broken Arrow Traffic Specialist Unit for traffic enforcement. The \$38,000 grant was provided by the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office for the fiscal year 2004. The grant period will run through September of 2004. It's the fourth year that the BAPD has been awarded a traffic grant from OHSO.

Both departments are constantly looking out for such grants and making applications.



NIENHUIS OVERVIEW -- This view of the proposed Nienhuis Park site plan shows the Youth/Community Center which is currently under construction (middle of three buildings at lower left), parking, pools youth football complex and some of the landscaping. The park is located between Albany and Omaha, just off Lynn Lane. The Vision 2025 package includes funding for much of the park.

Centennial...

(Continued from Page 1)

"Dance Yourself Into the Next 100 Years" is the theme of the downtown event. There will be square dancing and a 1950s Sock Hop, with participants urged to "break out the Poodle Skirts and leather jackets." There will be contests and concessions available throughout the evening, with the area around Main between Broadway and College being shut down to traffic and open to fun.

On Sept. 13 the Miss Broken Arrow scholarship pageant will take on a Centennial theme as it looks back on the past. The Centennial Committee is one of the sponsors of the event, which will be held at the North Intermediate High School Auditorium.

Also during the fall BAHS students will create their mural on the south wall of Smitty's Western Wear (Dallas and Main). The Centennial project will blend selected parts of Broken Arrow's history in a mural which will cover most of that wall. Workers last spring removed the old paint from the wall and prepared it for the new artwork.

There are still copies of the Broken Arrow Historical Society's book, "Broken Arrow: The First Hundred Years." They may be obtained through the Historical Society at The Main Place (far southwest corner).

Also available are several types of Centennial memorabilia, such as globes, maquettes of the Centennial statue, ABC books put together by 8th grade students and more. Call John Ayers at 258-5057 for information.

Vision...

(Continued from Page 1)

ments in flood prevention for the Haikey Creek area.

The \$26 million which would go to NSU-BA would enable the university to begin Phase II of its master plan, which includes construction of science, library and classroom facilities that will accommodate an anticipated 4,000-student increase over the next two years. It is estimated that more than 50,000 students will attend NSU-BA over the next 10 years.

There is another \$11.3 million in that proposal which would supplement existing state and local funding for the purchase of instructional materials for all of the children attending public schools in Tulsa County.

Several of the other projects in Proposition No. 4 would benefit Broken Arrows, in addition to the money for Nienhuis Park and 61st Street. There is money included for an Air and Space Museum in Tulsa and improvements to Mohawk Prk, two additional low-water dams on the Arkansas River, Zink Lake shoreline beautification, Route 66 restoration, the Oklahoma Aquarium, Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame and American Indian Cultural Center.

PROTECTION FOR K-9s -- RCB Bank President Earl Hall (left) presents a check for \$700 to Katie Rowland as BAPD officer Michael Shaw and his canine partner Samson look on. The BA girl has raised funds for bulletproof vests for the City's canine corps. Several businesses and individuals have contributed. The vests have been ordered, but additional funding is still needed.



City of Broken Arrow

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Helpful Phone Numbers:

Animal Control259-8311
Citizens Action Center258-3587
Fire Department (Main office)259-8360
Parks & Recreation/Comm. Center ..259-8380
Public Works (all offices)259-8373
Seniors Center (at Main Place)259-8377
Sewer & Water Emergencies
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.259-8373
after hours259-8400
Police Department259-8350
TDD259-8452
Traffic Fines/Municipal Court259-8424
Utility Payments259-8409

Police, Fire or Ambulance Emergencies . . . 911

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